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| **From:** | Susan Shelkrot |
| **To:** | City Council |
| **Subject:** | Resolution that calls for the City “to end its contracts” with Hewlett-Packard (HP) |
| **Date:** | Tuesday, April 10, 2018 4:50:27 PM |

Dear Cambridge City Council:
On April 23, the Cambridge Massachusetts City Council is expected to consider a resolution that calls for the City “to end its contracts” with Hewlett-Packard (HP) until, according to the organizers, HP “ends their support for violence against and oppression of Palestinians, deportations and surveillance of immigrants in the U.S., and oppression and surveillance of those currently and formerly incarcerated in the U.S.”

This initiative is part of a larger global BDS (boycotts, divestment and sanctions) movement that is, in significant part, dedicated to Israel’s delegitimization as the Jewish state. Groups backing this resolution have offered other justifications for the HP boycott, but it remains clear that this effort is designed primarily to target and delegitimize Israel.

As someone who is concerned about the city I live in and its public image, I urge you not to support this resolution. This resolution will have implications beyond Hewlett-Packard and, if adopted, would tarnish the reputation of our city.

- Singling out Israel and HP, amongst all the nations, companies, and conflicts in the world, and holding them to a unique ethical standard raises troubling issues. Thousands of American companies are working overseas and engaged in transactions that can be tied to questionable human rights practices; including numerous companies with Cambridge contacts.
- It would be one thing if the Cambridge City Council elected to adopt a foreign policy that it applied without prejudice to nations and companies around the world. However, in this instance, the Council would be overlooking scores of other situations and electing to support dubious and largely unexamined claims against Israel made by an outside organization.
- The BDS movement is detrimental to achieving peace. The establishment of a Palestinian state is a goal that we may share, but will not be realized by extreme and deceptive claims that belie the hard reality on the ground. There are many people of goodwill, who are working to bridge the divide between Israelis and Palestinians. Boycotts, like the one under consideration, undermine these peacemakers, fuel polarization, and strengthen the hands of those who reject co-existence.

Regards,
Susan Shelkrot

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Cambridge MA